

REMARKS

The present amendment is prepared in accordance with the new revised requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. A complete listing of all the claims in the application is shown above showing the status of each claim. For current amendments, inserted material is underlined and deleted material has a line therethrough.

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and claims 6-15 have been withdrawn from consideration because of a restriction requirement. Claims 1-4 and 16-20 have been rejected and claim 5 has been object to. Claims 16-20 have been rejected under 35 USC 112 and the Examiner notes that these claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Method claims 16-20 parallel method claims 1-5, except that claim 1 does not define the solution used to treat the etched component to remove products formed during the etching steps and corrosion products. Claims 16-20 are being canceled and the definition of the solution to treat the etched component has been incorporated in claim 1. Claim 1 has thus been amended to define that the etched component was treated with a solution selected from the group consisting of a free cyanide containing solution, chromic acid and a sodium hydroxide solution with a periodic reverse current. The Examiner had objected to the term "etchant" and the term "solution" was used to define the material used to treat the etched component. Support may be found, for example, on page 8, lines

7-17. Claims 5 is being maintained in the application as defining the treatment step using a free cyanide containing solution.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in allowable form and that amended claims 1-5 are properly allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner not find the claims to be allowable, Applicants' attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned to clarify any issue and/or to place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Carol M. Thomas Date: July 1, 2004 Signature: 
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